

Serial No.: 10/088,788

AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A surface mode liquid crystal device comprising a layer of nematic liquid crystal having viscosity coefficients η_1 , η_2 and γ_1 such that $(\eta_1-\eta_2)/\gamma_1 \geq 1.15$ or $(\eta_1-\eta_2)/\gamma_1 \leq 0.9$, wherein η_1 refers to a director parallel to velocity gradient, η_2 refers to a director parallel to flow direction, and γ_1 refers to rotational viscosity.
2. (Currently Amended) A surface mode liquid crystal device comprising a layer of nematic liquid crystal having viscosity coefficients η_1 , η_2 and γ_1 such that $(\eta_1-\eta_2)/\gamma_1 \geq 1.15$ or $(\eta_1-\eta_2)/\gamma_1 \leq 0.9$ at a temperature such that the liquid crystal is at least 5°C away from a transition to another phase, wherein η_1 refers to a director parallel to velocity gradient, η_2 refers to a director parallel to flow direction, and γ_1 refers to rotational viscosity.
3. (Currently Amended) A device a claimed in claim 2, in which the other another phase is a smectic phase.
4. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, in which the liquid crystal shows a nematic phase at at least one temperature in the range 0-60°C.
5. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, in which the nematic liquid crystal has an underlying smectic phase.
6. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, in which the liquid crystal layer comprises a polymer network formed by polymerisation of a polymerisable material with the layer cooled to a temperature at which the nematic liquid crystal has a smectic phase.

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7. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, in which the liquid crystal has positive dielectric anisotropy and is disposed between first and second alignment layers providing substantially parallel alignment and a pretilt less than 45°.

8. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 7, in which the pretilt is less than 10°.

9. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, in which the liquid crystal has negative dielectric anisotropy and is disposed between first and second alignment layers providing substantially parallel alignment and a pretilt greater than 45°.

10. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 9, in which the pretilt is greater than 80°.

11. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 9, in which $(\eta_1 - \eta_2)/\gamma_1 < 0$.

12. (Previously Presented) A display comprising a device as claimed in claim 1.